ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An alarm management system is provided which includes a hierarchical database of alarm source identifiers. Each alarm source identifier is associated with a corresponding software entity capable of generating an alarm. The system further includes a corresponding alarm controller for each software entity and an alarm processor. The alarm processor receives an alarm from one of the software entities, accesses the hierarchical database to identify a parent software entity of the one of the software entities, invokes a corresponding alarm controller for the one of the software entities and invokes a corresponding alarm controller for a corresponding alarm controller for the parent software entity.